

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A laboratory analyzer system comprising a base housing, a sample tray movably supported on the base housing, holding accommodations arranged on the sample tray to hold at least two samples subjected to an analysis, a drive mechanism arranged inside the base housing and operable to move the sample tray so that the samples seated in the holding accommodations are advanced in a stepwise motion along a prescribed track, and at least one analytical instrument module installed on the base housing along the prescribed track and operable to analyze the samples as they arrive at the instrument module; wherein the analytical instrument module is installed by means of an at least two-part non-destructively releasable connector arrangement consisting of first connector elements arranged at multiple locations on the base housing and at least one second connector element arranged on the analytical instrument module, thereby providing the options of installing more than one instrument

module on the base housing as well as installing a single instrument module at a choice of different locations on the base housing.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The laboratory analyzer system according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, wherein the sample tray is a rotatable, disc-shaped tray and the driven mechanism is a rotary drive mechanism operable to rotate the sample tray.

4. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 1, wherein the first connector elements are arranged over at least a segment of an imaginary circle on the base housing.

5. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 1, wherein the base housing comprises an upright wall-like flange with at least a first support surface and a second support surface for installing the at least one analytical instrument module, said support surfaces enclosing an angle of substantially 90° with each other.

6. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to

claim 5, wherein the base housing has a underside comprising a third support surface oriented substantially parallel to the first support surface, and the at least one analytical instrument module has a mounting portion embracing said first, second and third support surfaces when the instrument module is installed on the base housing.

7. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 5, further comprising an energy source arranged in a recessed channel delimited by the flange and extending over at least a segment of a circle.

8. (Currently amended) The laboratory analyzer system according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, further comprising at least one programmer unit adapted to run at least one predetermined analysis program on each analytical instrument module.

9. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 8, further comprising a connectable controller device, wherein the at least one programmer unit is adapted to run at least two predetermined analysis programs and the controller device is operable to select which of the predetermined analysis

programs is to be run on each analytical instrument module.

10. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 9, wherein the controller device comprises a computer that is operable for the processing of results of the analysis.

11. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 10, wherein the computer comprises a key panel that is connected to the base housing.

12. (Currently amended) The laboratory analyzer system according to ~~either~~ claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, comprising at least one motion-controlling arrangement operable to control the movements of at least one of the drive mechanism and the at least one analyzer system.

13. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 12, wherein the motion-controlling arrangement comprises at least one sample-associated mark on the sample tray and at least one stationary pick-up device operable to read the sample-associated mark, said stationary pick-up device being located on at least one of the base housing and the at least one analytical instrument module.

14. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 13, wherein the sample-associated mark is attachable to the sample tray by means of a non-destructively releasable attachment element associated with each holding accommodation.

15. (Original) The laboratory analyzer system according to claim 8, comprising at least one motion-controlling arrangement operable to control the movements of at least one of the drive mechanism and the at least one analyzer system, wherein at least one of the predetermined analysis program and the motion-controlling arrangement comprises code markings on the sample tray and a stationary pick-up device, and wherein the reading of the code markings is performed as part of an initializing step in which the sample tray is moved by the stationary pick-up device through a full revolution.

16. (Original) An analytical instrument module for installation in the laboratory analyzer system according to claim 1, comprising at least one instrument holder that holds at least one instrument and is movable to lower the instrument into a sample and retract the instrument from the sample; and further comprising a mounting portion containing the at least one second

connector element, said mounting portion being adapted for engagement with the base housing.

17. (Original) The analytical instrument module of claim 16, wherein the at least one second connector element comprises at least two fasteners at a horizontal distance from each other, selected from the group of fasteners consisting of pegs, pins and screws.

18. (Original) The analytical instrument module of claim 16, wherein the mounting portion comprises at least two mounting surfaces oriented substantially at a right angle to each other.

19. (Original) The analytical instrument module of claim 18, wherein the mounting portion comprises three mounting surfaces in a substantially U-shaped arrangement.